

It doesn't trim some Medicare programs that maybe are not as effective as others and help the others be stronger, more effective. No, it just takes away from Medicare.

Those are the things that are in this act, but what is not in this act? The mine workers protection act championed by my colleague from West Virginia, Senator MANCHIN. The mine workers protection act isn't in here, but the provisions expire for thousands of mine workers in the near future. There are 12,500 coal miners who will lose their health insurance on December 31. Another 10,000 will lose their health coverage next year and on into the future if we don't restore this program. If this bill is about health care, why isn't the coal miners' provision in here? I think it should be, but it is not.

What else isn't in here? Senator WYDEN's provision to help children who are foster children gain access to programs to help them address mental health and addiction. That was in here yesterday. That would have been a positive talking point for this bill yesterday, but it was stripped out last night. This bill isn't ready, not just for prime time; it is not ready for consideration at all.

If we are going to cut real programs to fund other real programs such as the Moonshot and Alzheimer's research, strengthening NIH, then get it into this bill. Don't just put in the real cuts and then say there is some promise and an invitation to chase a rainbow down the road. Put it in the bill.

The things that are in here are powerful, deregulatory giveaways to Big Pharma and Big Tobacco, making the lives of our citizens worse, not better. That is why we should kill this bill.

Thank you.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SCOTT C. DAYTON

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Naval CPO Scott Dayton, a Virginian who became America's first combat casualty in Syria. Scott was a resident of Woodbridge, VA, here in Northern Virginia. He enlisted in the military in 1993, in the Navy, and had a distinguished 23-year career, finishing his time in one of the most dangerous billets in the military—as a bomb disposal expert.

Scott was working in Syria pursuant to Operation Inherent Resolve, and on Thanksgiving day he was killed. He was a 42-year-old Virginian based out of Virginia Beach, but he was killed working to dispose of bombs about 30

miles from Raqqa, Syria, which is one of the two main headquarters of ISIS.

Scott Dayton was a decorated sailor in his 23-year military career. He won virtually every award there was, including a Bronze Star—19 different awards and commendations. Because his death occurred over a holiday weekend, there wasn't a lot of attention paid to it, but it was something I really wanted to come to the floor today to talk about because he is the first combat death in Syria of an American servicemember in Operation Inherent Resolve.

I wish we were paying more attention to this, and that is what I want to devote the rest of my comments to.

USE OF MILITARY FORCE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. Kaine. We began Operation Inherent Resolve, which is a war against ISIS, on August 7, 2014. President Obama announced at the time that we were engaging in targeted airstrikes against ISIS because of their advance toward Erbil. There is a U.S. consulate in Erbil, and so that was part of the President's inherent powers to defend the Nation—to protect our consulate.

Within a very few weeks, we had completely protected American interests, and President Obama said now is the time to go on offense against ISIS. The President appeared before the American public in a televised speech the evening of September 10, 2014, and said that we had taken care of the imminent threat to the United States but now we needed to go into an offensive war to “degrade and ultimately destroy the Islamic state.” And that description of what the mission is has now been broadened, in the words of current Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, to focus on ISIS's lasting defeat.

Since the war against ISIS began in August 2014, more than 5,000 members of the U.S. military have served in Operation Inherent Resolve either in Iraq or Syria. Right now, just as an example, from my home State, there is a carrier, the USS *Eisenhower*—homeported in Norfolk—that is in the gulf now as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. The U.S. military has launched over 12,600 airstrikes. We are carrying out special forces operations. We are assisting the Iraqi military, Syrians fighting the Islamic State in Syria, as well as the Kurdish Peshmerga in the northern part of Iraq.

Because of the work of American troops and those they are working with, we have made major gains against ISIS in northern Iraq. The territory they control in northern Iraq has dramatically shrunk. We have made major gains in shrinking their territory in northern Syria, and that is to be credited to brave folks like CPO Scott Dayton. But the threat posed by the Islamic State continues, and increasingly, as their battle space shrinks in real estate, they undertake

efforts off that battleground to try to destabilize us around the world.

This fight against ISIL, which is a key—maybe the key—national security priority involving U.S. combat operations in Iraq and Syria, will likely continue for the long foreseeable future, even after the complete liberation of Mosul and Raqqa, which I am confident will occur. The war has cost \$10 billion—800 days of operations at an average of \$12.6 million a day.

I began by honoring Scott Dayton, but Scott Dayton is not the only military member who has lost his life in this war. Five have been killed in combat in total, and 28 American servicemembers have lost their lives supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. As we speak, there are more than 300 special forces now in Syria fighting a very complex battlefield where Turkish, Syrian, Russian, Iranian, Lebanese Hezbollah, and Kurdish forces are operating in close proximity, as evidenced by recent developments and the growing humanitarian catastrophe in Aleppo.

I continue to believe—and I will say this in a very personal way as a military dad—that the troops we have deployed overseas deserve to know Congress is behind this mission. As this war has expanded into 2-plus years—I don't know whether that would have been the original expectation—with more and more of our troops risking and losing their lives far from home, I am concerned—and again raise something I have raised often on this floor—that there is a tacit agreement to avoid debating this war in the one place where it ought to be debated—in the Halls of Congress.

The President maintains that he can conduct this war without a new authorization from Congress, relying upon an authorization that was passed on September 14, 2001. When the new Congress is sworn in, in early January—I think 80 percent of those Members of Congress were not here when the September 14, 2001, authorization was passed, so the 80 percent of us who were not here in 2001 have never had a meaningful debate or vote regarding this war against ISIL.

I have been very critical of this President. I am a supporter of the President. I am a friend of the President. I respect the Office of the President. But I have been very critical of this President for not vigorously attempting to get an authorization done. When the President spoke about the need to go on offense against ISIL in September of 2014, it took him 6 months from the start of hostilities to even deliver to Congress a proposed authorization. I actually think that is the way the system is supposed to work, that the President delivers the proposed authorization. But I have also been harshly critical of the article I branch because regardless of whether the President promptly delivers an authorization, under article I of the Constitution, it is Congress that has the obligation to initiate war.